the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The details are:—

1. Boats at Husainsagar, Ramappa and Pakhal Lake.
2. Water Sports and Nagarjuna Sagar, Rishikonda and Vijaywada.
3. Floating recreation'Deck at Hussain Sagar.
4. Launch for Nagarjunasagar.
5. Water Sports Equitpments.

Offer of Air France for global alliance with Air India

2922. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Times of India dated 11th August, 1996 under the caption of "Air France offers global pact to Air India"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary discussions have been held between Air India and Air France on co-operative arrangements between the two airlines in their operations. No agreement has been reached in the matter so far.

Applications for Financial Assistance received by IDBI from Assam

2923. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for grant of financial assistance received by the Industrial Development Bank of India from entrepreneurs of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned and rejected during the above period; and

(c) the details of financial assistance disbursed by IDBI to industries in the state during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b)The number of applications received, sanctioned and rejected by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) from entrepreneurs of Assam during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Applications Received	Applications Sanctioned	Applications Rejected
1993-94	14	10	3
1994-95	15	10	
1995-96	21	17	

IDBI has reported that incomplete applications and those in which the promoters did not furnish the requisite details were treated as closed. These applications would however be reopened by IDBI as and when the promoter furnish the requisite information.

(c) The details of assistance disbursed by IDBI to industries in Assam during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under:—

(Rs. crores)

Year	Amount disbursed
1993-94	14.70
1994-95	22.53
1995-96	43.80

Present Level of NPA

2924. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present level of NPA (Non-Performing Assets) stand at 16.5% of the total adverses of banks;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the cost of funding these NPAs is a major contributory factor for the tardy growth of banks;

(c) if so, what is the ideal level of NPA as per Reserve Bank of India guidelines; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to bring it down to the ideal level?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not indicated any instructions to banks about the ideal level of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). The banks are, however, being continuously exhorted to bring down the level of NPAs through upgradation, recovery etc.

(b) The introduction of prudential norms on Income Recognition, Asset classification and